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UNCLAS QUITO 001802

SIPDIS

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, WHA, WHA/AND, WHA/PDA
DIRONDCP FOR PA
EMBASSIES FOR PAO/IO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL OPRC KIRC KPAO EC

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: VENEZUELA

"... The Cobra," a column (08/03) by Leon Roldos in
Quito's leading centrist "El Comercio" (circ. 70,000)

Quote: "There has been a great amount of gnashing of
teeth over the conversations [going on] between
Ecuadorian and Chavez's governments. . . with some
contending that the intention behind these talks is
to modify South American geopolitics .

"What is needed is to duly assess the terms
presented, while avoiding any sign of dependency,
which could become suffocating."

MEMMOTT